

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

President's Corner

Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX

Did you enjoy RARSfest last weekend? I did! And, with that in mind, I want to thank everyone for their hard work and friendly demeanor, which contributed greatly to the success of this year's RARSfest.

Field Day will be held over the weekend of June 25-26, 2011. Bob W4TTX and the Band Captains are working on their plans for Field Day. Volunteers will be needed for set up, operations, and tear down. In addition, David KF4VXJ has been working on donations to support Field Day, and he will need some assistance with pick up and delivery of donated items during the week preceding Field Day. If you can provide assistance, please contact Bob W4TTX or David KF4VXJ. Finally, please do not forget that there are many upcoming public service events, particularly during June. Visit the RARS website or contact John AI4RT at air4rt@hotmail.com to volunteer for these public service events.

Next RARS Meeting: May 3

7:30 PM: "APRS: It's More Than You Might Expect" and VE test session.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church
4400 Buffaloe Road
Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

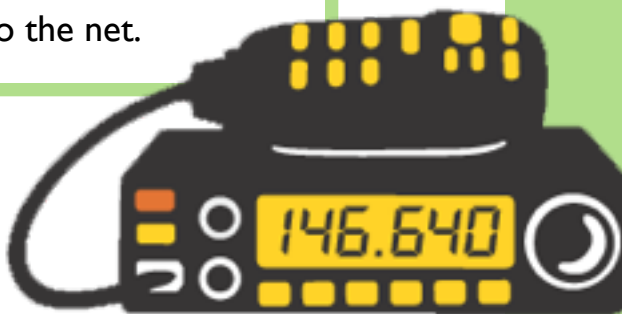
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

April Birthdays

Ron	KJ4DNS	5/4
Larry	W4WIV	5/5
Larry	KG4FIQ	5/5
Liz	KO4CK	5/5
Franco	KE4IBB	5/8
Hank	K4HM	5/8
Wayne	K6TWX	5/8
Brian	KA9QJT	5/10
Nancy	KB1HIX	5/10
Bob	NC1X	5/11
Chuck	AE4CD	5/12
Ed	WA4PEN	5/13
Bob	KI4ZNM	5/15
Chris	KE4TMO	5/17
Cam	KU4VY	5/17
Bill	AK4BL	5/20
Larry	K1ZW	5/20
Bob	KB4RGC	5/21
Clarence	KI4WTT	5/26
Courtney	KI4HOS	5/27
Donald	KJ4TTP	5/27

March 2011

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 525
Traffic: 33/28
Minutes: 535
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 90
Minutes: 440
Sessions: 12

Upcoming Hamfests

5/7 Upstate Hamfest (SC Section Convention)
Spartanburg, SC
<http://webpages.charter.net/tfry/index.html>

5/7 Heart of Georgia Hamfest
Byron, GA
<http://www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com/>

5/14 Rockingham Hamfest & Comp. Show
Reidsville, NC
<http://www.rcarc.com/>

5/20- Dayton Hamvention (ARRL Nat'l Conv.)
5/22 Trotwood, OH
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

5/28 DurHamFest
Bahama, NC
<http://dfmanc.org/>

5/29 Memorial Day Hamfest
West Friendship, MD
<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/>

New RARS Members

Deb Bray	KI4VVE
Phillip Hare	W4ABF
Kathy VanKlompberg	N8MOF
Dan Wise	K4FD
Grace Jenkins	KJ4KWG
Scott Greenough	Waiting for Call

What is Field Day?

Article by Bob Starkenburg W4TTX

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. This year Field Day is on June 25 and 26. As in the past, we will have the privilege of operating from the farm of Jim and Beth Carroll (N4CAE and KF4QMR) in Apex, North Carolina. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our diverse roles. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public.

Preparation for the event begins several months in advance, but the real hands on piece begins the week before. Volunteers from the Site Prep team will work under the direction of the Carroll's in preparing things for the big weekend. Grass needs to be cut, "facilities" need to be put in place, etc. On Friday June 24, beginning at 2:00 pm, volunteers from the Set Up Team, as well as band captains and operators, will assemble to begin setting up their tents, campers, and gear. Duties will include antenna and feed line set up, and station set up for each of the bands. Preliminary equipment testing will also be on the agenda. There are plans in the works to have a Friday evening dinner on site this year as a reward for everyone's hard work. More on that in the near future.

We reassemble on Saturday around noon for final equipment checks and instructions. At that time we will determine our operating class based on the number of transmitters on site, final instructions will be given, then everyone settles in for the start of the actual contest at 2:00 pm. The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. For the next 24 hours the air will be filled with the non-stop hum of generators, the crackle of radios, the lilting tones of CW, and a cacophony of voices calling "CQ Field Day". We typically operate on 15M, 20M, 40M, 80M, and 160M - phone and CW. We also have a VHF/6M station, and stations running digital modes (PSK) as well as a satellite station. Finally, there is the GOTA station. GOTA is short for "Get-On-The-Air". It's a great chance for unlicensed kids of all ages, as well as inactive hams to get on the radio.

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One of the highlights of the RARS Field Day is the traditional Saturday evening catered meal of fried chicken and pork BBQ. That is a meal not to be missed! There is also a very nice lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs on Sunday (hams do love to eat!).

The event ends at 2:00 pm on Sunday. The radios and generators go quiet. Electronic logs are submitted by the band captains. The antennas are taken down, and everyone cleans up, packs up, and heads home for a well deserved rest.

Why do we do all this? We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Besides, it's just plain fun!

If you have never participated in Field Day, please come out and join your fellow club members. Stay for an hour, or for the whole event — it's up to you. And remember, you are not limited to your class operating privileges during Field Day — you will be operating under the privileges authorized for license held by the control operator, and for Field Day, that usually means you can operate using Extra Class privileges. It's a great opportunity to get your feet wet in HF. There are sign up sheets on the RARS website if you would like to volunteer for one of the teams or to be an operator. See you there!

RARS Board Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2011

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM

Present: Ken McEwen KI4OTO, John Snellen AI4RT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Karl Bowman W4CHX, Jack Foster N6UYB, Don Downs WA4AVU, Robert Starkenburg W4TTX, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

Guests: Steve Jenkins KA8HXX and David Crawford KF4VXJ.

Apologies and/or emailed reports: Mary KG4OQA, CJ KJ4OBQ, and Courtney KI4HOS.

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The Minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
3. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): Based on her email communication, CJ KJ4OBQ indicated that Jeff AC4ZO has asked if he could make the Field Day presentation in June. A presentation has not been scheduled for May and she would welcome any suggestions.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): No report.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): No report.
6. Committee reports:
 - a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): John AI4RT reported that Larry Deans who heads up the MS bike rides has given RARS a plaque in thanks for our contributions to their events. A picture of the plaque will be placed in the EXCITER. The next events will be the Spring Fling bike ride on April 2 and the MS Walk on April 9.
 - b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report.

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- c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): No report.
- d. Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): Bob W4TTX reports that all band captain positions have been filled. He inquired as to writing letters to local politicians inviting them to visit the Field Day site.
- e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): Gary KN4AQ advised that Austin AJ4VK is going to work on locating the 145.13 repeater in the RTP area. Gary KN4AQ is not sure of the costs but anticipates that it will be several thousand dollars. We have a two meter repeater at Danny Hampton's (K4ITL) home, which is ready. Our 444.525 UHF repeater is still unrepaired. Gary KN4AQ discussed several issues with the auto patch.
- f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): John AI4RT reported that the next RARSFest meeting will be held on Monday, March 28. Due to the close proximity of the RARSFest, another meeting may be called later. There was some discussion about who is invited to attend the Friday night supper.
- g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): Based upon her email communication, Courtney KI4HOS reported that in response to the Board's request, the EXCITER has been coming out earlier for the past 2 months; she thanks those who have contributed information to the EXCITER; and as always, one should feel free to submit an article to the newsletter.
- h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.
- i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): Based on her email report, Mary KG4OQA indicated that the "nets are fine."
- j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): No report.
- k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): No report.
- l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): No report.

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- m. At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): Jack N6UYB commented that he has received several inquiries from members about our UHF/VHF repeaters.
- n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.
- o. RARSVE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): No report.
- p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): No report.

7. Old business:

- a. Followup on agenda items introduced by Bob KB4RGC (Ken KI4OTO?): With regard to efforts to get new club members, it was reported by Ken KI4OTO that Bob KB4RGC wishes to send letters to newly licensed hams inviting them to come to RARS meetings and events. Bob apparently is willing to cover the costs of the postage.
- b. Education award (Karl W4CHX): Karl W4CHX reported that a decision has been made not to submit a nomination from RARS for the ARRL education award. A suggestion was made that we look into having an awards committee.
- c. Board of Directors job descriptions (Hank K4HM): Hank K4HM reported that he has received some info but the project is not complete.
- d. Field Day 2011: donations and in-kind services project (David KF4VXJ): David KF4VXJ reported that he has received some rejections for our requests of donations. However, he continues to solicit contributions from other sources. David commented that Texaco wishes to see our budget prior to making a commitment; he was advised to provide Field Day budget information only.
- e. Bereavement donations (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX was not present but it was reported that he has not had time to do the research.

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- f. RARS participation in Maker Faire, Saturday, June 18, 2011 (Ken KI4OTO): Ken KI4OTO has sent an email to “Woody” Woodward K3VSA, ARRL Public Information Coordinator for NC, concerning the event but has of yet not received a response. John AI4RT commented that there was a large article in CQ magazine about Maker Faire.

8. New business:

- a. RARS sponsorship of Youth DXpedition (Steve KA8HXX): This was actually the first order of business taken up by the Board to allow Steve to make his presentation and then leave. Steve KA8HXX advises that his son has been invited to participate in a DXpedition to Costa Rica for youths. Each youth has to have a chaperone so Steve will join his son. Each team has to raise a given sum of money and Steve requested that RARS be a sponsor. The event is sponsored by the Dayton (Ohio) Amateur Radio Association (the same club that holds the Dayton Hamvention). After Steve left the meeting, there was extensive discussion about the importance of helping youths become interested in ham radio and how RARS might donate money. A motion was made and seconded that the Board donate \$250 out of our current budget and then another \$250 out of next fiscal year budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- b. ARES (John AI4RT): John AI4RT advised that he wished to move the ARES net from the 146.88 repeater to the 146.64 repeater. The ARES net meets on Thursday nights at 8:30 PM. John is concerned that too many groups are using the 146.88 repeater and all that ARES needs is Wake County coverage which 146.64 should be able to provide. He has communicated with the Net Manager, Mary KG4OQA, and there are no concerns there. John wishes to make the change on May 5. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow ARES to hold its nets on the 146.64 repeater.

9. Any other business: there was no other business to come before the Board.

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10. Board member's comments:

- a. Gary KN4AQ commented that he is working on a Field Day video.
- b. Hank K4HM and Selene KG4RMT thanked the Board for their life time honorary memberships.

11. Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

RARS General Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2011

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM

- 1) Call to order: The meeting was called to order by VP CJ KJ4OBQ at 7:35PM. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. President Karl W4CHX was present but recovering from surgery. There were 62 members and guests present.
- 2) Approval of minutes: The minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting were approved as published in the April EXCITER.
- 3) Vice President's report (C J Orr KJ4OBQ): VP CJ KJ4OBQ reported that the program for the May meeting will be "APRS: Its More Than You Might Expect".
- 4) Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that we have 280 members. Any RARS member wishing more detail information may contact Greg.
- 5) Announcements (OJ KJ4OBQ):
 - a) RARS Dinner: Second Tuesday, April 12th, 6:30PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Ave (Hwy 70W), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (12th) for any update information.
 - b) RARS Board meeting: Third Tuesday, April 19th, 7:00PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Rd, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.

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- c) After meeting gathering: Depending on the time of the program completion: Applebee's, Six Forks Rd and Wake Forest Rd (by the Costco).
 - d) Guests: Tim Slay N4IB
- 6) Reports from RARS Board members and others:
- a) John AI4RT Public Service Coordinator announced that we have a new event, it is a cycle event on July 23.
 - b) John AI4RT RARSFest Chair advised that we have many more vendors and dealers signed up to come to RARSFest. We have moved to the Jim Graham Bldg to accommodate the larger event. Volunteers are needed; sign up on the web page or on the clipboard being circulated in the meeting. Chuck K4HF reminded everyone of the supper the night prior to the hamfest. Marty W4MY states that we will have a special event station, N4C, and everyone is welcome to come over and help operate. Joe N1LVN stated that help was needed selling admission tickets at the door.
 - c) John AI4RT ARES EC reported that the net was moving from the 146.88 repeater to the 146.64 repeater effective 5-5-11. The basis of the move is due to potential crowding on the 146.88 repeater in the event of an emergency.
- 7) Any other business:
- a) Steve KA8HXX advised that the Youth DXpedition Adventures was going to be held on July 20-26, 2011. They will be going to Costa Rica. His son, Sam is going and he is going as a chaperone. Each team must raise \$2000. He was selling raffle tickets. RARS has made a donation.
- 8) Program: VP CJ KJ4OBQ introduced Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC who presented the program, "Dirt Cheap Battery Tester". It will be difficult to summarize the information that was presented, but safe to comment that it was well received and generated much discussion and questions.
- 9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM by VP CJ KJ4OBQ.
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Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

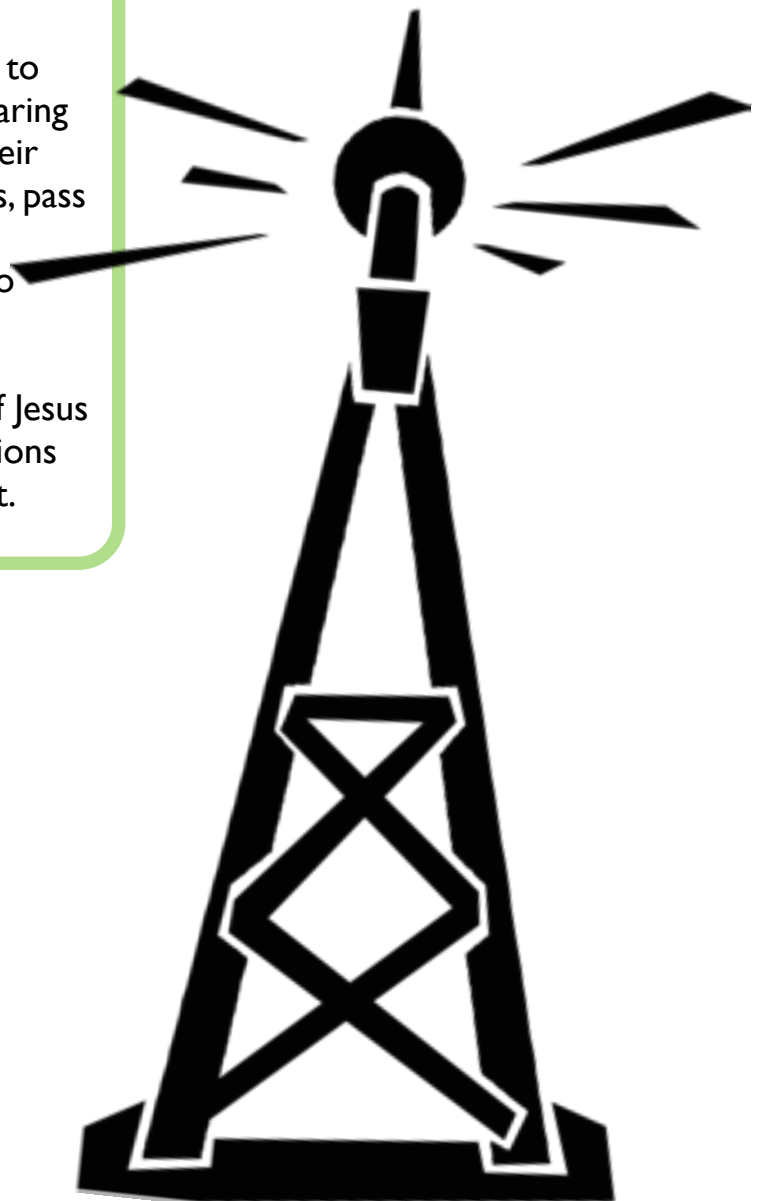
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

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